

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



January 2021—December 2021



MOVING EARTH TO SHARE HEAVEN

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Letter from FIA's Executive Director

FIA exists to support mission work in areas of limited infrastructure by using construction projects and practical service to speed the Gospel to those who have never heard.



For 30 years, Friends In Action International has partnered with missionaries and missions around the world to speed up the process of sharing the Truth of Jesus Christ to the lost and the unreached. Though much has been accomplished, the call to “go into all the world and preach the Gospel” seems to echo with increasing urgency.



We have all faced many challenges this past year, with ongoing global restrictions causing us to reconsider and adapt various ministry approaches. And yet the ever-present reality that millions are going to a Christ-less eternity compels us all the more to stand firm and declare “we will go”!

As we build, weld, fix and serve, we recognize that we are called to be agents of change. Through the projects we accomplish, and in light of the reasons that drive us, change comes to the people we serve. This is change that affects culture and community, body and soul.

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

This change comes from witnessing the effects of Truth, the Truth of the Gospel.

We build bridges into communities that can carry the weight of that Truth. Every nail struck, every welding rod burned, every plank sawn, every brick laid, is purposed to point to Jesus. We are His witnesses in how we work, how we live, how we love – in everything we do – we point all around towards Him.

Consider and be encouraged by what the Lord has accomplished this year, by those willing to go, to serve, and those willing to send and support. As fellow laborers, we covet your prayers, and are privileged by your partnership. There is much yet to be done, many more “bridges” to build, for the sake of bringing the Truth to the lost. The time is now, and we’re ready to go.

Matt Durkee | FIA Executive Director

Since 2008, Matt began his involvement with FIA through The Water of Life Project by drilling wells and supporting community outreach projects for West African missionaries and churches. More recently, he was the Deputy Executive Director before beginning as Executive Director in January 2022. Durkee lends a wealth of international project management, engineering, and ministry outreach experience to lead FIA’s passionate mission to assist missionaries serving in unreached areas of the globe.

BECAUSE THE COMMISSION IS THE MISSION.

▶ The first word in the Great Commission is the foundation of FIA’s mission as an organization. We GO. To empower missionaries to stay longer, impact further, and journey deeper, we GO to “unreachable” places to help connect with the unreached.

When we GO, life transformation is not limited to our partner missionaries or the indigenous villagers they serve. The church in North America is strengthened and built as believers step out of their comfort zone to stretch their faith. When volunteers GO, they experience spiritual transformation through an increased worldview, sharing life skills and testimonies, and a greater understanding of different cultures.

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Because there is no place on earth excluded from the assignment of the Great Commission, FIA serves in the forgotten regions of the highest mountains, the deepest valleys, the densest jungles, and the driest deserts. With a heart for remote, isolated locations where many cannot or will not go, our passion is reaching the last, the least, and the lost for Christ.

Lack of access and trying conditions make these remote regions extremely challenging to mission partners committed to long-term service to the people there. The roads, bridges, wells, airstrips, and countless other services FIA provides are pushing to the ends of the earth to empower missionaries to share the life-giving Gospel message of Jesus Christ!

USING CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS & PRACTICAL SERVICE

to Speed the Gospel

WHAT WE DO



Water Projects

West Africans and the NiVan of Vanuatu



Infrastructure & Transportation

NiVan of Vanuatu and West Africans



Community Transformation

Rama Cay and Miskito of Nicaragua



Medical Relief

Amazon Jungle, Bolivia



Education & Life-Skills Training

Papua New Guinea and University of Divine Grace, Moldova



Outreach & Discipleship

At each work site in every nation where we are involved



SERVANTS OF TRUTH

Our Philosophy Of Ministry

FIA was founded in 1992 to meet the growing need for skilled trade labor to benefit missionaries and their outreaches in remote areas of the world. FIA teams complete service and construction projects beyond the scope of missionaries' experience or time limitations enabling them to focus on what they are called to do—bring the Word of God to unreached people.

Remaining true to our original purpose, FIA continues to serve, so front-line Gospel workers can reach further, missionaries can stay longer, and the Truth can travel faster to those who have never heard.

People are at the heart of every project. Growing in our relationship with God, those we support, and those served is even more important than the ventures we undertake.

While we are all about demonstrating God's love by practical means, Jesus always has center stage.

Through partnerships with missionaries, nationals, and indigenous pastors on-site, we never undertake a project without a plan for seeing the Gospel shared and discipleship provided afterward.

What a privilege to be servants of the Truth in the far-flung regions of the world.



FIA partners with missionaries



to accelerate the Gospel through



construction projects & practical service



In remote locations to those who



have not heard the Good News.



OUR MISSION

Friends in Action, Intl. supports mission work in areas of limited infrastructure by using construction projects and practical service to speed the Gospel to those who have never heard.

OUR VISION

To see every tribe, tongue, people and nation declare Jesus as Lord!

PROJECTS POINTING TO TRUTH

1. Opportunities to Hear the Gospel—221,750

200,000 Bolivia/Brazil Inspiracion radio, 1,200 El Misionero Medical Outreach, 100 Well-drilling Africa, 1,400 Rama Cay Nicaragua, 1,750 Moldova University of Divine Grace, 3,200 Papua New Guinea Prison Ministry, 100 Vanuatu outreach.

2. Community Transformation Projects-2,000

Four hurricane-resistant homes built, laundry/shower house begun, playground, walking bridge, and well completed for the Rama; 2 wells drilled Africa; church built Bolivia.

3. Medical Relief & Aid— 7,400

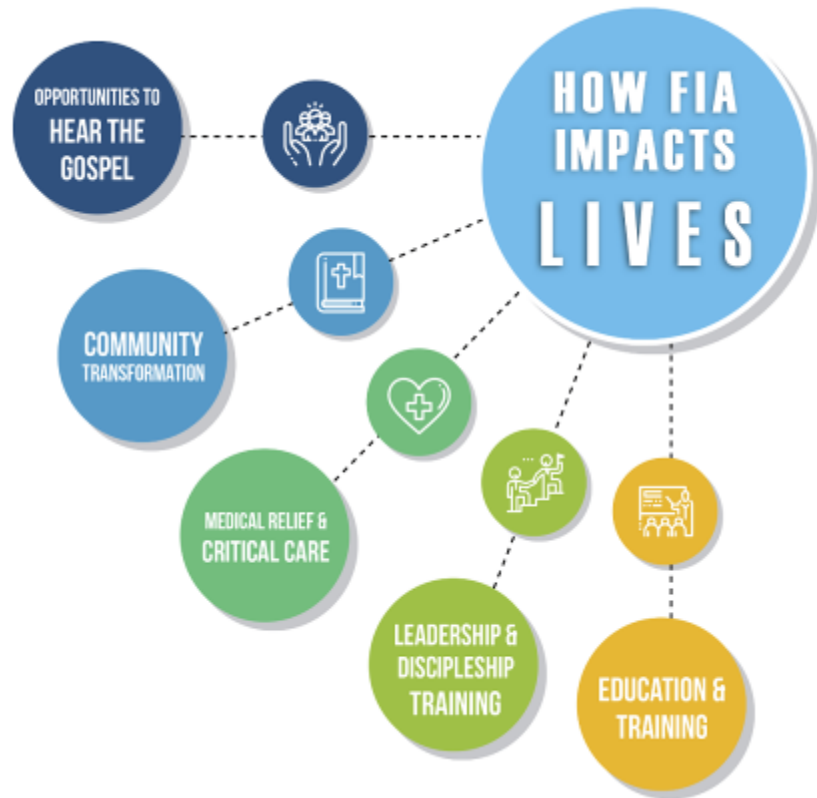
1,200 El Misionero and C19 aid Bolivia; 3,200 PNG Prison Outreach; 3,000 Clinic Supplies Vanuatu

4. Leadership & Discipleship Training—1,150

500 Indigenous Training Center Bolivia; 65 Discipleship Training Nicaragua, 7 PNG; 35 Pastoral Training Vanuatu; 550 Moldova

5. Education & Life-Skills Training— 340

25 PNG; 16 Rama; 300 NiVan Vanuatu



* Numbers are conservative estimates and do not include partner missionary organizational outcomes or impacts by supported national leaders.



- Ministering where less than .2% have heard the Gospel.
- 1st volunteer team since Covid-19 lockdown arrived in country.
- 284th well drilled since 2001 - bringing clean water and the Gospel to conservatively 150,000+

AFRICA



"It's not just about finding a piece of property – this is about making a home for this ministry, laying a foundation and building a future that is going to impact this village, this community, and this country for Jesus."
 ~Jeremy Effler, FIA West Africa Field Leader.

Now and for the past 20 years, FIA has served the thirsty and those who are spiritually dry through the provision of clean water. This free gift of water, no strings attached, is an act of love pointing many to Jesus, The Living Water.



FIA's first volunteer team since the Covid-19 lockdown made amazing headway on basecamp construction efforts in February 2021. A team of 7 believers from Canada and the US fabricated and installed roof trusses for a supply hangar structure, completed vehicle and equipment maintenance, and drilled the first well in FIA's new West African host country.

One volunteer shared, "I was happy to use my skills as a

mechanic to provide upgrades and repairs on equipment that I know will be used to bring life – both physical and spiritual. This trip was an amazing glimpse at what ordinary people like me can do to make eternal and global impacts. I'm so glad I went."

"The well is an important part of our ministry. When the people come for water, we build friendships, and then we can tell them of Christ." MANSOOR, NATIONAL PARTNER



- Over \$40,000 in medical and food relief provided to 5 previously unreached villages.
- Dozens saved and baptized through youth camps, teaching at The Indigenous Training Center, and remote outreaches.
- A new church building was funded and built for new Beni believers.

BOLIVIA



“My husband died. When I got sick myself, there was not enough for my children to eat. I was so grateful when Pastor Saul came to our door with food and medicine. I am a life saved and give thanks to the Lord.” ~ Maria, a Bolivian villager

Partnering with key Bolivian national believers, Friends In Action provides funding, ministry supplies, technology, and construction projects to reach remote indigenous groups with the Gospel. Select volunteers in-country, as well as from the US and Canada provide medical care, discipleship training, and construction labor for outreaches to the Amazon jungle and beyond.

Food, medical supplies, relief - and most importantly the Gospel are saving and changing lives in Bolivia! This year alone 5 unreached people groups have been introduced to the hope found in Jesus Christ through radio broadcasts, medical relief, and biblical training for the next generation of torch-bearers bringing Christ into the dark places of Bolivia!

Over 200,000 Bolivian and Brazilians have heard the Gospel through 24/7

Christian radio broadcasts while additional teaching and discipleship is taking place weekly at The Indigenous Training Center. National believers are volunteering by the hundreds to participate in evangelistic outreaches to help save lives and carry the Gospel to their neighbors.

“We are thankful to Friends In Action who pray and give to enable our work as pastors to help unreached people groups like the Chaco,” WILSON DOMINGEZ, BOLIVIAN PASTOR





- 7 more students sponsored as supplies, room, board, and tuition is provided for the next generation of missionaries to serve in closed Central Asian nations.
- Administrative support provided to professors expanding impacts through satellite schools in three strategic locations: Chimkert, Kazakhstan; Dushanbe, Tajikistan; and Tobolsk, Siberia Russia.

MOLDOVA



“This is a critical time to be involved in reaching Muslims with the Gospel. Although there is some restriction and some persecution, there is more freedom than before. Now is the time to develop and impact these areas,”
 ~ UDG’s Academic Dean.

Since 2009, Friends In Action has partnered with The University Of Divine Grace as a means to impact Central Asia with the Gospel. In addition to helping with classroom and dormitory construction efforts at UDG’s main campus in Moldova, FIA assists students through sponsorships of their studies. Graduates return to “closed” homeland countries equipped to share a biblical worldview in their new positions within business, education, and social work.



One such student sponsored by generous FIA donors in 2021 is Nora. Nora grew up in a predominantly Muslim region of Kyrgyzstan. Her grandfather heard about Jesus from another patient while being hospitalized. Shortly after his recovery, he became a Christian and then her mother decided to also follow Christ. But Nora was not so sure. She pressed into her Muslim heritage, praying more earnestly at the mosque. Yet she felt nothing. This began a two-year journey

of studying the claims of Christ, which eventually led to her conversion. Thanks to FIA’s student support, Nora is studying missions at The University of Divine Grace. She feels called to work with children and hopes to serve refugees upon graduation.

“Thank you for making it possible for me to study here. I want other Muslims from my homeland to understand and know the freedom found in Christ too.” NORA, UDG STUDENT



NICARAGUA

- 4 more homes built bringing the total to 24 completed toward the 40 houses goal!
- 65+ villagers attend church services; 6 more students sponsored for Biblical Institute training
- 10 more Rama became Christ-followers!

“The people who once doubted our love, genuine concern for them, and if we would stick with them have come to realize what unconditional love means and how deeply God loves them. Now, they live with a hope and joy never before experienced.” ~ Tim Johnston, FIA Field Leader to Nicaragua.

Since 2005, FIA has partnered with missionaries and national leaders to help the Rama people alleviate overcrowding and sanitation issues in one of Nicaragua’s last indigenous areas. As homes are built, hearts are opening to the Gospel!

“We call our new community ‘Spring of Living Water’. Not only because we have a source of clean water, but because of the Bible teaching provided. When FRIENDS comes to do construction projects, they invite people to come to meetings to hear the Word of God. I went to these meetings starting in 2007. I came to truly understand God’s way to heaven. There is only one way—through Jesus,” shared Cristina, a Rama woman

whose family lives in one of the newly constructed homes.

FIA ensures villagers who express interest in learning more about the Lord can attend bible sessions by supporting the efforts of missionaries Rick and Eunie Johnson (International Action Ministries).

“One of 2021’s highlights was watching youth as well as the older generation come to Christ after attending teaching led by their own strong believers.”
TIM JOHNSTON, FIA FIELD LEADER



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Dozens of missionaries and frontline Gospel workers received supplies and mechanical or construction assistance.
- 25+ National students received educational support.
- 8 National workers participated in daily discipleship training.

“Friends in Action has been an incredible asset to our specific church plant, and countless others throughout PNG. We thank God for the critical role they play in expanding His kingdom here.” ~Jesse, OIPNG Missionary in PNG

For more than two decades, FIA has supported mission partners throughout the remote northern and eastern regions of PNG. FIA’s PNG team skills revolve around mechanical maintenance and support, woodcraft and construction, airstrip construction and maintenance, materials purchasing, and supply logistics. The FIA ministry keeps missionaries connected, operational, and effective to go further and stay longer as they reach the least, the last, and the lost of PNG.

The COVID-19 pandemic has not stopped FIA ministry work in PNG. Though field leaders are in Canada, FIA’s national team has continued faithfully meeting the needs of the missionary community.

FIA’s service of a generator and supply shipments to Outreach International (OIPNG) enabled missionaries to complete a ward and health clinic, a water tower, and a Digicel broadcasting tower to help reach remote bush tribes.

Other examples of practical services FIA offers to frontline

Gospel workers are repairs of a truck and generator (Ethnos360), mower repair for the Yembi and Sino tribes, sawmill for the tribe in Amdu, and outboard motor repair (OIPNG) just to name a few! FIA’s work enables missionaries to access unreached people and focus on ministry instead of maintenance.

“I was overwhelmed by the help FIA gave me in setting up the sawmill to support the village school efforts. What a blessing to be part of God’s family.”

GILLION, VILLAGE TEACHER



VANUATU

- \$30,000+ was provided to national pastors to rebuild a church and associated buildings.
- \$100,000+ of supplies and a Mack truck are being prepared for Phase I of a water project to benefit 3,500+ villagers.

“Thanks to the supplies I was able to personally visit every house in the village of Mataloi and also every family in the village of Valui. It proved that we are more than just talk at church, but we are actually showing God’s love.” ~Pastor Gaby, national pastor

FIA’s work in Vanuatu focuses on completing projects that engage the hearts of village chiefs and leaders, who respond by inviting missionaries and pastors we partner with to teach the Word of God in their remote jungles, mountains, and island villages.

Gardens, homes, and hope are being rebuilt in Vanuatu as villagers have begun recovery efforts after Cyclone Harold leveled their communities in April 2020.

“I used to think that the witch doctor was right about the spirits, that they held the power over the water and the weather. I was always very scared to anger them for fear of what would happen, so when the cyclone hit, I thought we caused it. But when the missionaries came with rice and fish, I listened when they talked

about Jesus calming storms and having the power over all the other spirits,” shared Alani, a NiVan villager.

This kind of practical aid is enabling national pastors and missionaries to build relationships that open unreached tribes and hearts to the Truth.

“I’m excited about the upcoming water project. The chiefs have promised if we bring them water, they will allow me to preach the Gospel to their villages.” PASTOR GABY





SHIPPING

- 140+ ministries and 900+ missionaries have been assisted by FIA's Shipping Ministry.
- FIA enables mission-critical cargo to reach front-line Gospel workers in 50+ countries around the globe.

"Thanks for your many efforts there in the U.S. and all the items you have sent us so far. The power system, appliances, and office equipment have helped free up quite a bit of time, which makes the job out here go that much faster." ~Ethnos360 Missionary, PNG

In operation since 1999, FIA staff and local volunteers in Mansfield, Missouri have provided purchasing, consolidating, and logistical support to get needed supplies into the hands of overseas workers. In 2020, FIA's shipping department expanded to FIA's Headquarters in Pennsylvania to increase our capacity for shipping to some of the most remote locations on earth!

For hundreds of missionaries in extremely remote locations receiving a crate or container with essential items for survival and ministry feels like Christmas in July!

"We were giddy opening the 20' supply container. Lots of must-have ministry materials were inside—a planer, table saw, a mower attachment for a bush missionary's tractor to use on the airstrip. Plus, there were supplies for our

woodshop and mechanical shop, new flooring for our termite-eaten house, replacement tires for the truck used for outreaches, and school supplies for teachers in the village highlands," shared field leaders in Papua New Guinea.

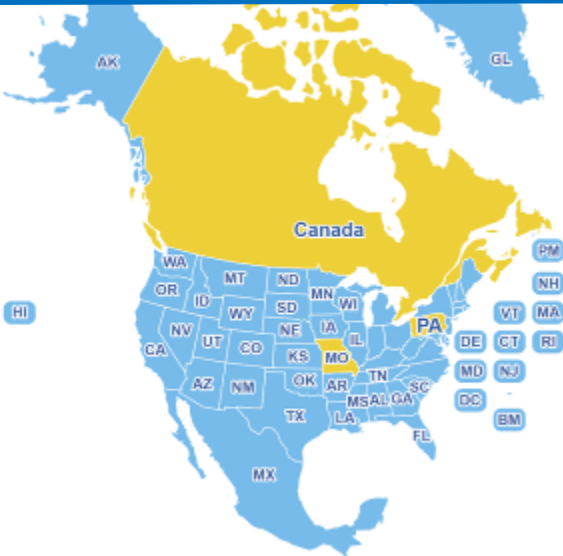
"From purchasing, to packing, to getting it across the sea and into the bush, FIA's Shipping Department gets us the supplies we need. It's been a God-send for sure."

MISSIONARIES IN WEST AFRICA





PARTNERING IN THE TRUTH



THE BOARD

- Matt Durkee was appointed as new Executive Director of USA and Canada effective January 2022.
- Previous Director Tim Johnston was appointed to the new position of Director of Partnership Development.

Friends In Action, Intl. is governed by two all-volunteer governing bodies located in Canada and the United States. The Boards provide strategic direction, set policy, require accountability, and give oversight and vision for the organization.

The US Board of Directors currently consists of eight members, and the Canadian board five. Their professional profiles cover different areas of expertise, such as construction, business, industrial operations, medical, farming, and ministry. The biographies of all members of the Board of Directors are available at www.fiintl.org/board-members/

US Board

- Andy Hunt—Chairman/Treasurer
- Paul Jarot—Vice Chair
- Ted Illjes—Secretary
- Faye Brown—Member
- Steve Nehlsen—Member
- Matt Durkee—Executive Director
- Ralph Beltran—Director Emeritus
- Randy Schnieders—Sabbatical

Canadian Board

- Roger Wingfield—Chairman/Treasurer
- Irwin Pronk—Vice Chair
- Chris Smerdon—Secretary
- Pete Giesbrecht—Member
- Matt Durkee—Executive Director



“Being part of Friends In Action’s Board of Directors means I’m taking part in caring for one of God’s most valuable resources, His people, in spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth.”

FAYE BROWN, BOARD MEMBER

CHAMPIONING THE TRUTH



- FIA has an army of local and global prayer warriors, financial backers, and volunteers who partner with us for eternal impacts!
- Your participation in our 300+ attendee banquet and \$270,000 matching fund campaign made 2021 a year to remember!

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At Friends In Action, Intl., we do all we can to ensure that each dollar is stretched to do the most good for the greatest number of people to the highest glory of God! Our commitment to you, as our supporters, is to see your dollars invested into the people and projects that need it most.

We are committed to accountability, transparency, and good stewardship and are happy to have received the following accolades.



4-Star Rating From Charity Navigator

This is the highest possible rating issued by America's largest independent charity evaluator.



Guide Star Platinum

This is the highest level offered by the world's largest source of information on non-profit organizations.



Top-Rated Non-Profit

FIA received the prestigious Top-Rated Badge from the one and only people's choice award for non-profits.



ECFA Accredited

FIA is a member in good standing of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

Special Thanks to Our Corporate Sponsors

Bachert Steel Fabrication
 Benson Construction LLC
 Buckman Ski Shops
 DC Welding Inc.
 Donegal Springs Airport
 Harro Associates
 I-TEC
 J&A Forge Services, LLC

Jacob Hitz Machine Shop
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 JB Hostetter & Sons, Inc.
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 Koser Bros. Contracting, Inc.
 Kyle L Hunt, MBA, CPA
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Messiah College, Engineering
 Scenic Ridge Construction
 Shirk's Auction Gallery
 Sight & Sound Theatres
 The Jacobs Brothers
 Wall-To-Wall Floor Covering
 Walz Group CPA
 WJTL FM 90.3

FINANCIAL REPORT



	2021	2020	2019
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INCOME SOURCES

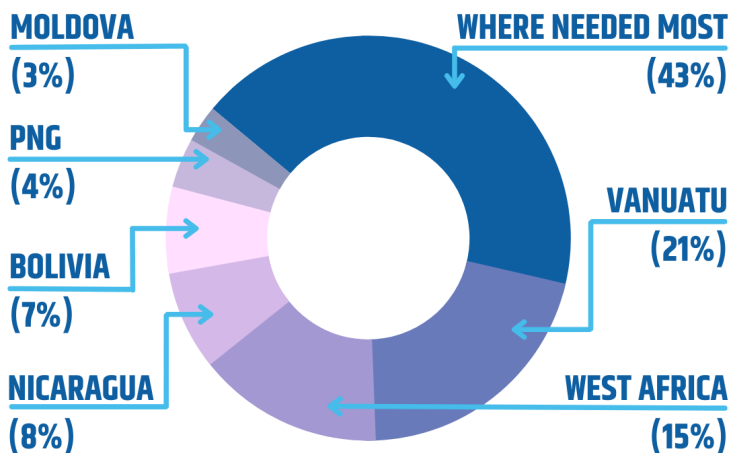
Contributions (Missions & Project Support)	\$1,169,780.96	\$ 779,876.44	\$ 46,101.50
Contributions (Staff)	\$ 665,175.00	\$ 448,766.00	\$ 349,357.00
Contributions (Administrative & Member)	\$ 115,896.83	\$ 156,742.56	\$ 79,686.13
Other (Rental/Lease)	\$ 119,345.40	\$ 130,324.00	\$ 141,275.37
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,070,198.19	\$ 1,515,709.00	\$1,032,420.00

EXPENSES

Program Services (Missions & Projects)	\$1,011,107.91	\$ 779,876.44	\$ 1,002,179.00
Management & General	\$ 160,194.73	\$ 128,804.00	\$ 108,687.00
Fundraising	\$ 97,649.93	\$ 73,077.00	\$ 102,508.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,268,952.57	\$1,056,524.00	\$1,213,374.00

Complete and audited financial statements are available at FIAintl.org/about/accountability.

Mission Projects & Support \$1,169,780.96

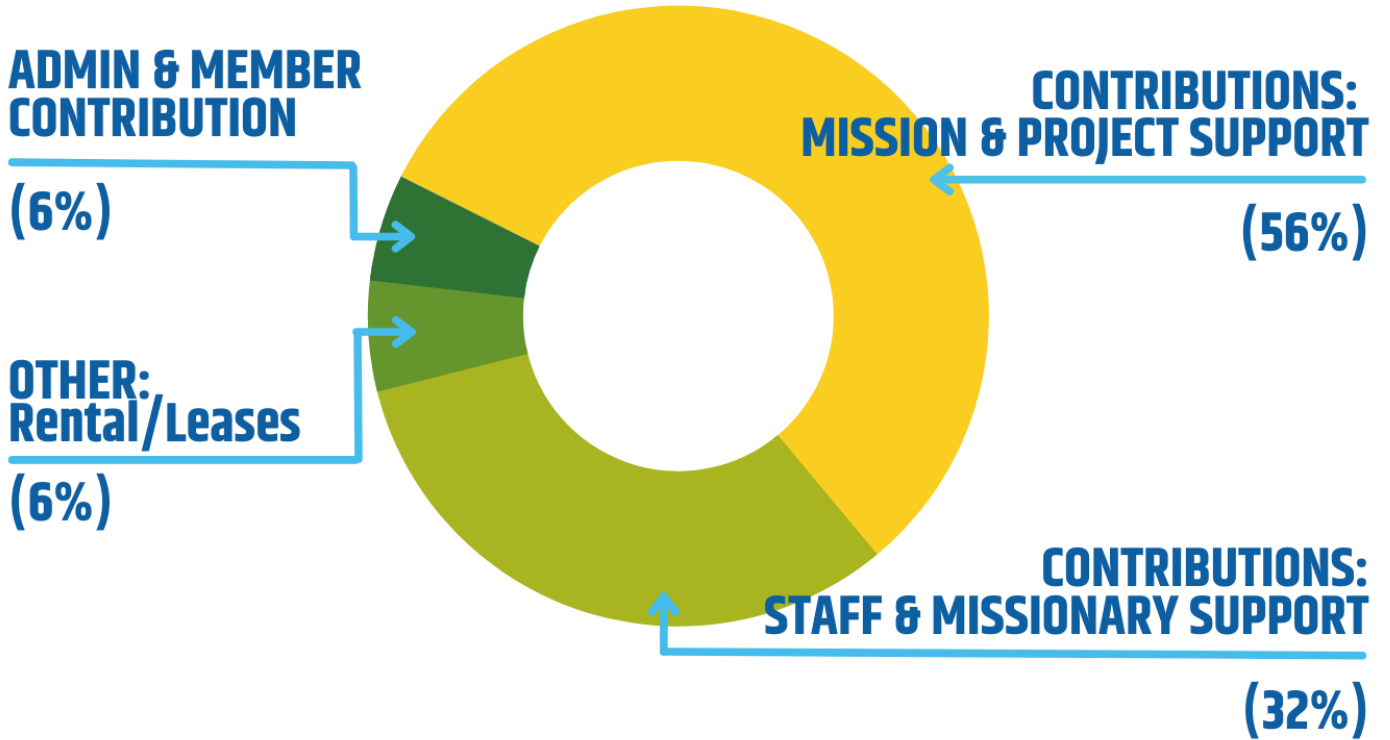


International Projects by Category



Income Sources

\$2,070,198



Donor Composition



718 INDIVIDUALS



50 CHURCHES



33 BUSINESSES



8 GRANTS/
BURSARIES



**FRIENDS
IN ACTION**
INTERNATIONAL

FIaintl.org



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/FriendsInActionCanada

MOVING EARTH TO SHARE HEAVEN